A TRUE

NARRATIVE

Of the Proceedings at the

Sessions-House

IN THE

OLD-BAYLY,

Which begun on *Wednesday* the 30th of *April* 1679. and ended on *Friday* the second of *May* following.

Being a True Relation of the Tryal and Condemnation of a Romish Priest, for High-Treason. With the Tryal of the Maid for setting her Masters House on Fire in *Holborn*, as also of two Persons for Counterfeiting his Majesties Coin, and two Women for Murdering their Bastard Children.

WITH

The number of the persons that received Sentence of Death, Burn'd in the hand, and to be transported, &c.

VVith Allowance.

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The Proceedings at the SESSIONS-HOUSE In the OLD-BAYLY, were as followeth.

OF the many Malefactors here tryed, the moſt material and notorious were,

Two perſons, who together with a Confederate of theirs that fled for it, had broke into a Gentlemans Chamber of *Clements Inne*, and from his Chamber into his Study, where they rifled his Truncks, and took away 515*l.* in Moneys: they made made their way through ſome Chamber next adjoyning to that robbed, where, one having entertained the other two to lodge with him for ſeveral nights, they ſo contrived their buſineſs as to break a Hole in their own Wall behind their Beds head with a ſhort but ſtrong Digger, which was produced in Court: the Rubbiſh which was ſworn by the Ividence to be to the quantity of a Buſhel or two fell into their own Chamber where they lay, ſo that no ſign of any ſuch breach could be diſcovered in the Chamber of the Gentleman robbed: Next they met with a Wainſcot Pane, wherewith the Wall on the other ſide was lined, which with great Art they took down at a time when they knew the Gentleman robbed to be from home; the Gentleman's Beds head was the next oppoſition they met with, but by main force they made a ſhift to remove the Bed, and make their entrance to a miſchief: Having rifled the Truncks, and taken away the 515*l.* they retreated through the breach they had made

made in the Wall; the Profecuter at his return, diſcovering his misfortune, cauſes the Porter of the houſe to view his Chambers, and having juſt ſuſpicion of theſe his Neighbours, orders the Porter to ſeize upon the Owner of the next Chamber, upon his next ſight, who accordingly coming home late that night, with two Swords, was laid hold on by the Porter. The perſon pleads innocence and no want of mony to invite him to ſuch an Attempt; as alſo that the other his Chamber-fellows (the Parties indicted) had a Key to the Chamber, and might do it without his knowledge, he deſires that his Mother and another Witneſs may be heard in his behalf, but both failed to appear, though often called in Court; the other Priſoner then at the Bar confeſſed his having gone from his Maſter to *Canterbury* and dealt with the Party which fled from this Fact, who being afraid of his diſcovering him, gave him 20*s.* to bear his charges home again, and lent him (as the Priſoner calls it, 10*l.* with which he returns; was taken by Capt. *Richardſon*, and committed, and upon full Evidence both were brought in guilty of the Felony and Burglary.

The next of note was a perſon that was arraigned for killing a Footman upon this occaſion. On the 20*th* of *March*, about 11 at night, the Footman meeting this Perſon in the Street asked *who came there*; anſwer was made, a Gentleman; the Footman told him, (with the interpoſition of an Oath) that he was none; whereupon the Priſoner ſtruck the Footman with his Cain; upon which the Footman preſs'd ſo hard, the Priſoner notwithſtanding endea-

endeavours to take him off, that he was forced to make uſe of his Sword and the Footman was kill'd. This being found a ſudden Fray, and no premeditated Malice between them, was brought in by the Jury Manſlaughter.

After this was Arraigned a Servant-Maid indicted for ſetting on fire her Maſters houſe, in the Pariſh of S. *Andrews Holborn*, in the County of *Middleſex*, on the 10*th* of *April* laſt; the Witneſs proved nothing againſt her; one affirmed that with a Fork, which upon the affright of the Fire he had taken up, he ſtirred up a Bundle of Rags or Cloathes in which he ſaw the Wick of a Candle about two Inches in length on Fire in the Room which was then burning, but withall declared the oppoſite end of that Room wherein it was found to be moſt on fire: The Priſoner could not hold in her tale about her abſence while the Fire was in her Maſters Garret, where it broke out; for ſhe of the two Maid-ſervants which her Maſter kept went laſt to Bed that night, and while they in the houſe were buſie about the fire, ſhe it ſeems was miſſing; but the Evidence fixing nothing upon her ſhe was by the *Jury* brought in not guilty.

A Woman Indicted for having on the fifteenth of *April* laſt murdered a Male Baſtard Child, of which it ſeems ſhe had been delivered but an hour before. She was going with it, wrapt up in an Apron in a Hand-basket, to bury it in the Church-yard, as ſhe pretended; being diſcovered, was apprehended by a man, who called another to his aſſiſtance, and with much a-do wrung the Hand-basket out of her hand

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whereupon they ſent for a Midwife, who ſearching found (as in Court ſhe ſwore it) that the Priſoner had then newly been delivered of a Child, that the Child was dead, but of perfect ſhape, and that ſhe had gone her full time with it: No marks were found about the Child of any force or violence had been uſed to it: The Priſoner confeſſed ſhe was delivered of it in an Houſe of Office, but affirmed, that it was Still-born; which the *Jury* not crediting, upon hearing the Statute in that behalf read to them in open Court, brought her in guilty of the Murder.

Another Indicted for the murder of a Male-child found dead in her Maſters houſe; which being a publick houſe, and in a place where a Stranger might as well have laid it, and no Proof coming in directly againſt her, ſhe was brought in not guilty.

Two Perſons were Indicted for killing two men; but it being done upon provocation, and in heat of blood, the *Jury* found it Man-ſlaughter.

Afterwards was Arraigned for High-Treaſon, and Tryed, one *Morgan*, as being a Prieſt by Virtue of Authority derived from the Sea of *Rome*: Dr. *Oats* then preſent on the Kings behalf informed the Court upon Oath that the ſaid *Morgan* was a *Romiſh* Prieſt, and that he had particularly on the 25th of *Auguſt* laſt heard the Priſoner, and ſaw him in his Prieſts Robes in *Cockpit-Alley* reading Maſs, which the Priſoner not denying, the *Jury* brought him in guilty of High-Treaſon.

A Souldier Indicted for robbing one *Beckington*, *April* the 18th, between nine and ten at night, upon the *High*-way between *London* and *Hendon*. It appeared to the Court, that he took from the Proſecu-

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tor a Suit of Boys Cloaths, and ſeven ſhill. in moneys numbred; after which he bound the Proſecutor, and threw him into a Gravel-pit: upon full Evidence the *Jury* found him guilty of the Felony and Robbery.

A Young Man Indicted for waſhing, counterfeiting, and coyning ten mill'd half-Crown pieces, ten *Elizabeth* ſhillings, and ten ſhillings of the Coyn of King *Charles* the Firſt: he was apprehended in the Fact; whereupon certain pieces of Moneys finiſhed and unfiniſhed were taken from him, and produced in Court. The Priſoner pretended, that for five ſhillings he was hired only to boyl them for one living in the *Minories*; the *Jury* upon hearing the Evidence, and receiving directions from the Court about the Statute on which he was Indicted, brought him in guilty of High-Treaſon.

A Souldier Arraigned for murdering a Payier in *Holbourn* on the 31th of *March* laſt, by wounding him with a Shovel on the right ſide of the head; but upon Tryal, Provocations and Circumſtances being duly weighed, the *Jury* brought in the Priſoner only guilty of Man-ſlaughter.

A Maid-ſervant to a *French* Merchant, Indicted by her Maſter for having felonioufly taken away ſeveral Tortois-ſhell Fans, and counterfeit Amber Neck-laces, which the Maſter proves to have been his own, and ſold by the Priſonet; but the Priſoner in her Defence gives the Court ample ſatisfaction that ſhe ſold theſe by Order of her Miſtreſs (for ſo the Priſoner was ordered by her Maſter to own the Houſe-keeper, to whom it appear'd in Court he had given

full

full power of selling those Commodities) the Jury brought in the Prisoner (who was a *Protestant*) not guilty; and the Prosecutor (being a *Roman Catholick*) was made to find Sureties for his Good Clearing.

One Indicted for Murthering her Bastard Child, on the 12th. of *March last*, upon her Arraignment Confessed the Fact and seemed very Penitent: The Jury in their Verdict brought her in Guilty, and accordingly she had Sentence passed upon her.

An Ancient Man Indicted for Seditious words which he had spoken against the King and the Protestant Religion: but the Evidence being somewhat weak herein, and it appearing that the Prisoner was Distracted, the Jury brought him in not Guilty.

A Man was Indicted for High-Treason for Counterfeiting the Kings Coin; In his Possession were found Stamps for Spanish Pistols, and two Counterfeit Spanish pieces, but they not being Coin currant in *England* and the Fact not being proved upon him as to the Coin of our King, the Prisoner was brought in not Guilty.

Another there was one who stood Indicted for Counterfeiting the Kings Coin, he Confessed that he had Brass money of a Friend of his to Boyl for him, that thereby it might be brought to a passable Complexion; which Boiling, by Directions from the Bench, appearing to the Jury to fall under the the Statute against Counterfeiting any of the Kings Coin, the Prisoner was accordingly found Guilty of High Treason and Condemned to be Drawn, Hang'd and Quartered.

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There was a Man Indicted for Stealing a Brown-Bay Horſe, upon his Arraignment Confeſſed the Fact, and accordingly was brought in Guilty by the Jury, and received Sentence of Death.

A Woman was Arraigned for the Felonious taking of a Silk Farrendine Gown, with two Petticoats and a Waſtcoat on the 15th of *March* laſt, was upon full Evidence Convicted and accordingly Condemned.

There were many Tryed at this Seſſions, ſome for Felonies, ſome for Burglaries, and ſome for Murders, for which Crimes fourteen received Sentence of Death, *viz.* nine Men and five Women; nineteen Burn'd in the Hand, and two received the Mercy of the Court for Tranſportation, and the Prieſt and Money-boiler before mentioned, were Condemned to be Drawn, Hang'd and Quartered and their Quarters to be diſpoſed of at his Majeſties Pleaſure.

FINIS.